

ATTACHMENT A

Clean Copy of Claims as of April 18, 2001

1. A method of preventing defective germination or growth of a plant comprising the steps of:

encapsulating one plant seed or a plurality of plant seeds in an aqueous gel capsule;
refrigerating the plant seeds under the condition that the plant seeds do not germinate;

and

sowing the plant seeds.

2. The method of preventing defective germination or growth of a plant according to claim 1, wherein the size of the plant seed is equal to or less than 1 mm.

3. The method of preventing defective germination or growth of a plant according to claim 1, wherein the refrigeration is carried out in a dark place.

4. The method of preventing defective germination or growth of a plant according to claim 2, wherein the refrigeration is carried out in a dark place.

5. The method of preventing defective germination or growth of a plant according to claim 3, wherein the plant seed is a seed of alight germinator.

6. The method of preventing defective germination or growth of a plant according to claim 4, wherein the plant seed is a seed of a light germinator.

7. The method of preventing defective germination or growth of a plant as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plant seed encapsulated in an aqueous gel capsule is a pelletized seed.

8. The method of preventing defective germination or growth of a plant as claimed in claim 2, wherein the plant seed encapsulated in an aqueous gel capsule is a pelletized seed.

9. The method of preventing defective germination or growth of a plant as claimed in claim 3, wherein the plant seed encapsulated in an aqueous gel capsule is a pelletized seed.

10. The method of preventing defective germination or growth of a plant as claimed in claim 4, wherein the plant seed encapsulated in an aqueous gel capsule is a pelletized seed.

11. The method of preventing defective germination or growth of a plant as claimed in claim 5, wherein the plant seed encapsulated in an aqueous gel capsule is a pelletized seed.

12. The method of preventing defective germination or growth of a plant as claimed in claim 6, wherein the plant seed encapsulated in an aqueous gel capsule is a pelletized seed.